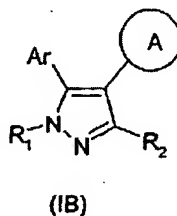
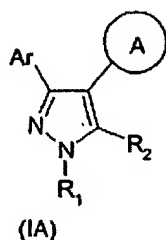


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IA) or (IB) or a salt, or N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof:

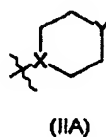


wherein

Ar is a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which is optionally further substituted in the 5-position,

R₁ and R₂ are independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, hydroxyethyl, or benzyl;

ring A is a ring of formula (IIA)



wherein X represents N, and Y represents CH, O, S or NH,

wherein (i) a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or (ii) a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula $-(\text{Alk}^1)_p-(\text{Cyc})_n-(\text{Alk}^3)_m-(\text{Z})_r-(\text{Alk}^2)_s-\text{Q}$ where

Alk¹, Alk² and Alk³ are optionally substituted C₁-C₃ alkyl,

Cyc is an optionally substituted phenylene radical;

m, n, p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is -O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, -SO₂-, -C(=O)O-, -OC(=O)-, -NR^A-, -C(=O)NR^A-,

-NR^AC(=O)-, -SO₂NR^A-, or -NR^ASO₂- wherein R^A is hydrogen or C₁-C₆ alkyl, and

Q is ~~hydrogen or~~ an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl,

~~imidazolyl, or morpholinyl-carboecyclic or heterocyclic radical; and~~

wherein "optionally substituted" means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, -COOR^A, -COR^A, -SO₂R^A, -CONH₂, -CONHNH₂; -CONHNHR^A, -CONHNR^AR^B, -SO₂NH₂, -CONHR^A, SO₂NHR^A, -CONR^AR^B, -SO₂NR^AR^B, -NH₂, -NHR^A, -NR^AR^B, -OCONH₂, -OCONHR^A, -OCONR^AR^B, -NHCOR^A, -NHCOOR^A, -NR^BCOOR^A, -NHSO₂OR^A, -NR^BSO₂OR^A, -NHCONH₂, -NR^ACONH₂, -NHCONHR^B, -NR^ACONHR^B, -NHCONR^AR^B, and -NR^ACONR^AR^B wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group.

Claims 2-8 (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R₁ and R₂ are each hydrogen.

Claims 10-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 9 wherein in the ring of formula (IIA), Y is -NR^A - wherein R^A is a radical of formula -(Alk¹)_s-Q, wherein Alk¹ is a C₁-C₃ alkylene radical and Q is optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl or morpholinyl, wherein optionally substituted means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, -COOR^A, -COR^A, -SO₂R^A, -CONH₂, -CONHNH₂; -CONHNHR^A, -CONHNR^AR^B, -SO₂NH₂, -CONHR^A, SO₂NHR^A, -CONR^AR^B, -SO₂NR^AR^B, -NH₂, -NHR^A, -NR^AR^B, -OCONH₂, -OCONHR^A, -OCONR^AR^B, -NHCOR^A, -NHCOOR^A, -NR^BCOOR^A, -NHSO₂OR^A, -NR^BSO₂OR^A, -NHCONH₂, -NR^ACONH₂, -NHCONHR^B, -NR^ACONHR^B, -NHCONR^AR^B, and -NR^ACONR^AR^B wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group ~~is defined as in claim 1.~~

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 9 wherein in the ring of formula (IIA), Y is $-NR^A$ - wherein R^A is a radical of formula $-(Alk^1)_p-(Cyc)_n-(Alk^3)_m-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q$ wherein Alk^1 , Alk^2 , Alk^3 , Cyc , Z and Q are as defined in claim 1

Alk^1 , Alk^2 and Alk^3 are optionally substituted C_1 - C_3 alkyl.

Cyc is an optionally substituted phenylene radical;

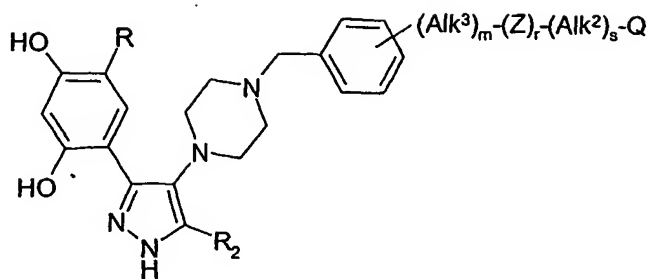
Z is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-(C=O)-$, $-SO_2-$, $-C(=O)O-$, $-OC(=O)-$, $-NR^A-$, $-C(=O)NR^A-$,

$-NR^AC(=O)-$, $-SO_2NR^A-$, or $-NR^ASO_2-$ wherein R^A is hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and

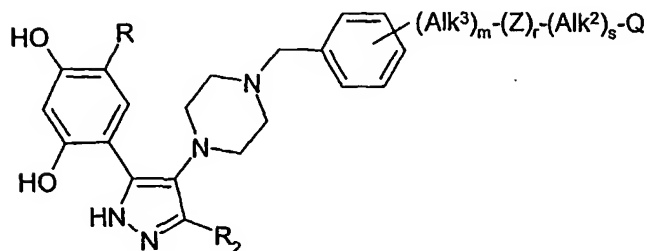
Q is an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl, or morpholinyl wherein "optionally substituted" means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from $(C_1$ - C_6)alkyl, $(C_1$ - C_6)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy $(C_1$ - C_6)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto $(C_1$ - C_6)alkyl, $(C_1$ - C_6)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, $-COOH$, $-COOR^A$, $-COR^A$, $-SO_2R^A$, $-CONH_2$, $-CONHNH_2$, $-CONHNHR^A$, $-CONHNR^AR^B$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-CONHR^A$, $-SO_2NHR^A$, $-CONR^AR^B$, $-SO_2NR^AR^B$, $-NH_2$, $-NHR^A$, $-NR^AR^B$, $-OCONH_2$, $-OCONHR^A$, $-OCONR^AR^B$, $-NHCOR^A$, $-NHCOOR^A$, $-NR^BCOOR^A$, $-NHSO_2OR^A$, $-NR^BSO_2OR^A$, $-NHCONH_2$, $-NR^ACONH_2$, $-NHCONHR^B$, $-NR^ACONHR^B$, $-NHCONR^AR^B$, and $-NR^ACONR^AR^B$ wherein R^A and R^B are independently a $(C_1$ - C_6)alkyl group.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IC) or (ID) or a salt, ~~or N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof:~~



(IC)



(ID)

wherein R is hydrogen, an optional substituent, chloro, bromo, or a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring, and R_2 , m, r, s, Alk^3 , Z, Alk^2 and optionally substituted are as defined in claim 1

R_2 is independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, hydroxyethyl, or benzyl;

Alk^2 and Alk^3 are optionally substituted C_1 - C_3 alkyl,

m, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is -O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, -SO₂-, -C(=O)O-, -OC(=O)-, -NR^A-, -C(=O)NR^A-,

-NR^AC(=O)-, -SO₂NR^A-, or -NR^ASO₂- wherein R^A is hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 alkyl, and

Q is an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl, or morpholinyl,

wherein "optionally substituted" means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, (C_1 - C_6)alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy(C_1 - C_6)alkyl, mercapto, mercapto(C_1 - C_6)alkyl, (C_1 - C_6)alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl,

trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, -COOH, -COOR^A, -COR^A, -SO₂R^A, -CONH₂, -CONHNH₂, -CONHNHR^A, -CONHNR^AR^B, -SO₂NH₂, -CONHR^A, SO₂NHR^A, -CONR^AR^B, -SO₂NR^AR^B, -NH₂, -NHR^A, -NR^AR^B, -OCONH₂, -OCONHR^A, -OCONR^AR^B, -NHCOR^A, -NHCOOR^A, -NR^BCOOR^A, -NHSO₂OR^A, -NR^BSO₂OR^A, -NHCONH₂, -NR^ACONH₂, -NHCONHR^B, -NR^ACONHR^B, -NHCONR^AR^B, and -NR^ACONR^AR^B wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group.

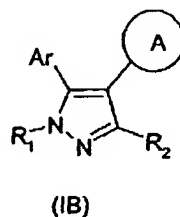
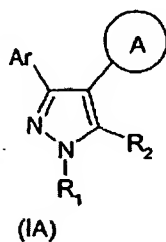
18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 17 wherein $[[n]]_m$ is 0, r is 1, and Z is -C(=O)NH-.

Claims 21 – 28 (Canceled)

29. (New) A compound of formula (IA) or (IB) or a salt, or N-oxide thereof:

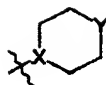


wherein

Ar is a 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl group which further substituted in the 5-position by chloro or bromo; or by optionally substituted phenyl or C₁-C₆ alkyl; or by a phenylethyl group which is optionally substituted in the phenyl ring thereof,

R₁ and R₂ are independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, hydroxyethyl, or benzyl;

ring A is a ring of formula (IIA)



(IIA)

wherein X represents N, and Y represents wherein R^A is a radical of formula $-(Alk^1)_s-Q$, wherein Alk^1 is a C_1-C_3 alkylene radical and Q is optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, oxadiazolyl, imidazolyl or morpholinyl, wherein optionally substituted means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which is independently selected from (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy (C_1-C_6) alkyl, mercapto, mercapto (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, nitrile, oxo, phenyl, $-COOH$, $-COOR^A$, $-COR^A$, $-SO_2R^A$, $-CONH_2$, $-CONHNH_2$; $-CONHNHR^A$, $-CONHNR^AR^B$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-CONHR^A$, SO_2NHR^A , $-CONR^AR^B$, $-SO_2NR^AR^B$, $-NH_2$, $-NHR^A$, $-NR^AR^B$, $-OCONH_2$, $-OCONHR^A$, $-OCONR^AR^B$, $-NHCOR^A$, $-NHCOOR^A$, $-NR^BCOOR^A$, $-NHSO_2OR^A$, $-NR^BSO_2OR^A$, $-NHCONH_2$, $-NR^ACONH_2$, $-NHCONHR^B$, $-NR^ACONHR^B$, $-NHCONR^AR^B$, and $-NR^ACONR^AR^B$ wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C_1-C_6) alkyl group.